

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** White Paper on Federation Reform

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question reference number:** 226

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 22 February 2016, Pages 15, 16

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 14 September 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: Have there been any staffing reductions out of the task force?

Ms Larkins: The task force has gone up and down over the life of the task force and, yes, there are some staffing reductions. I would prefer to take on notice what current staffing is.

Senator WONG: To give me a sense of it, about how many people does this involve currently?

Ms Larkins: I think it would be about 12 but, again, I—

Senator WONG: And at its peak?

Ms Larkins: I think about 18, but I would rather take that on notice than be—

Senator WONG: No, that is fine—I will not hold you to that. I am just trying to get a sense of it. Would that have been mid-last year—like in the calendar year 2015?

Ms Larkins: Again, I was not there then, so I think it is better if I take it on notice.

**Answer:**

In September 2015, the Reform of the Federation White Paper Taskforce in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet comprised 19 staff, including two secondees; one from the Department of Human Services (DHS), and one from the Department of Health.

As at 29 February 2016, there were 11 staff, including one secondee from DHS and one secondee from The Treasury.